REMARKS

Claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 22 are pending. Claims 1 – 12, 14 and 16 – 22 are rejected. Claim 13 is objected to because it depends from a rejected independent claim.

The applicants amend claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11 – 14, 18, 20 and 21, and add claim 23. The applicants amend claims 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13 not to overcome the examiner's rejections, but to more clearly recite an aspect of the applicants' invention. These amendments do not narrow the claims. The applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 22, as amended, are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed below.

Objection to FIG. 2

The applicants do not understand why FIG. 2 is objected to. In the applicants' response mailed 24 July 2006, the applicants explained that the reference numbers 32, 38, 50 and 48 in FIG. 2 and the elements that each refers to are clear when considered in conjunction with paragraphs 11, 15 and 17 of the specification and FIGS. 3 and 4. In the subsequent office action mailed 14 February 2007, the examiner does not address the applicants' explanation but simply repeats the original objection to FIG. 2. The applicants respectfully request that the examiner consider the explanation previously provided.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 10

The applicants' claim 1, as amended, recites a coupling element operable to allow the post to be moved to a position in which the body of the post can not receive an item stored in the compartment. Support for this can be found in at least FIGS. 2 and 3 and paragraph 13 of the specification.

The applicants' respectfully assert that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over U.S. Patent 5, 400,902 (Kaminski) at least because, unlike the applicants' claimed post, Kaminski's post is not moved to a position in which the body can not receive a disc. FIGS. 2 and 3 appear to show one position of Kaminski's post, and FIG. 5 appears to show another position of Kaminski's post. Although FIG. 2 shows

Kaminski's post before it is completely inserted into the disc's hole, and FIG. 3 shows Kaminski's post after it is completely inserted into the disc's hole, the position of Kaminski's post in both figures appears to be the same. Because the post is moved between the two shown positions to allow the post to be inserted into or withdrawn from the hole of the disc, the two shown positions appear to be the limits of the post's movement. In both positions, Kaminski's post can receive the disc. Therefore, Kaminski's post is not moved to a position in which the post can not receive the disc.

Claims 2 – 10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies on claim 1, as amended.

Rejection of Claims 11 – 13

Claim 11, as amended, is patentable over Kaminski at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1, as amended, over Kaminski.

Claims 12 and 13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claim 11, as amended.

Rejection of Claims 14 and 16 – 20

Claim 14, as amended, is patentable over Kaminski at least for reasons similar to those recited above in support of claim 1, as amended, over Kaminski.

Claims 16 – 20 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claim 14, as amended.

Rejection of Claim 21

The applicants' respectfully assert that Claim 21, as amended, is patentable over Kaminski and U.S. Patent 6,535,379 (Smeenge) at least because, unlike the applicants' claimed post, Kaminski and Smeenge each fails to disclose a post that is moved to a position in which the body of the post can not receive a storage disc. As discussed in the arguments for the patentability of amended claim 1 over Kaminski, Kaminski's post can receive a storage disc in any of the post's positions. And,

Smeenge's post does not move. Therefore, neither Kaminski nor Smeenge disclose a post as recited in claim 21.

Rejection of Claim 22

The applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner's rejection against claim 22 in view of Kaminski at least because the examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic elements are required. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. And third, the references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP; 8th edition; §2143.

The examiner fails to show a motivation to add the applicants' locking element to Kaminski's post. The examiner asserts that one would find it obvious to add the applicants' locking element to Kaminski's post to provide an alternate equivalent means of supporting and locking a storage disc in a storage compartment. This assertion, however, simply expresses the fact that Kaminski's post and the applicants' post are different. This assertion does not provide a motive such as why an alternate equivalent means of supporting and locking a storage disc in a storage compartment would be developed.

In addition, the examiner fails to show the applicants' locking element taught in the prior art. The examiner admits Kaminski's failure to disclose a locking element on page 6 in the third full paragraph, but does not provide another prior art reference that does disclose the applicants' locking element.

Therefore, the examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 22.

Conclusion

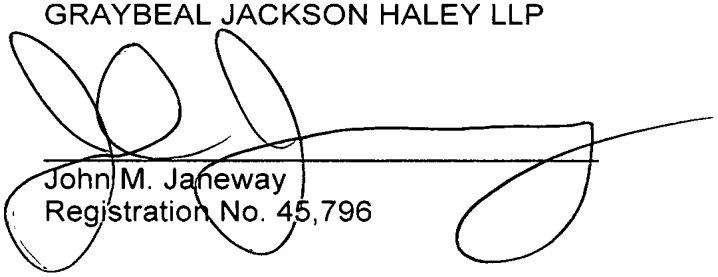
The applicants' attorney respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the rejection against claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 22, as amended, and issue an allowance for claims 1 – 14 and 16 – 23.

If, after considering this response, the examiner believes the claims should not be allowed, the applicants' attorney respectfully requests that before issuing an Office Action, the examiner call Mr. Janeway (425-455- 5575) to schedule a telephone conference to further the prosecution of the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, at any time during the pendency of this application, any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.25.

Dated this 12th day of April 2007.

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